

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00879

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PORG, AO, NI
SUBJECT: GARBA ON ANGOLA-NIGERIA RELATIONS

1. WHILE WAITING IN MY OFFICE MARCH 10 TO PLACE CALL TO SECRETARY VANCE, BRIG GARBA (NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) BEGAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FRONT LINE REACTIONS TO AFRICAN MINI-SUMMIT WITH PRES CARTER. ALL REACTIONS WERE PRESUMED TO BE FAVORABLE BUT ANGOLA LOOMED AS BIG QUESTION MARK. GARBA REPORTED QUOTE IT WILL TAKE HIS CENTRAL COMMITTEE TOO LONG TO DECIDE UNQUOTE. HE THEN RECITED NIGERIAN-ANGOLAN DIFFICULTIES WITH FISHING RIGHTS, REQUEST FOR AIR ROUTES AND OTHER GOVT REQUESTS.

2. COMMENT. APPARENT TENSION IN ANGOLAN-NIGERIAN RELATIONS IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLING. WE NOTE NIGERIA HAS MADE LOANS AND GRANTS APPROXIMATING 50 MILLION DOLLARS TO ANGOLA. ON OTHER HAND, ANGOLA HAS BEEN REPORTED AS RESPONDING FAVORABLY TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT ON ECONOMIC AND MILITARY QUESTIONS ALONG NAMIBIA BORDER (CAPE TOWN 469). ALSO, ANGOLAN HELPFULNESS IN FRONT LINE AND DEALING WITH
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00879 112020Z

SWAPO CONTRASTS WITH MILITANT IMAGE. GARBA SUSPECTS RUSSIANS VIEW NIGERIA AS A RIVAL FOR INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA BUT HAVE NO FEAR OF SAG OR FRONT LINE AND THAT ANGOLAN STANCE IS INFLUENCED BY THIS. YOUNG

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